

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHORRA 00055 140505Z

21

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 NIC-01 ACDA-19 SAM-01

DRC-01 /159 W

----- 020598

R 130947Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL KHORRAMSHAHR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 173

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

COMIDEASTFOR BAHRAIN

CNO WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHORRAMSHAHR 055

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR MARR IR

SUBJ: FRENCH-IRANIAN INCIDENT ON SHATT-AL-ARAB

1. ON JUNE 10 FRENCH MINESWEEPER MALOUINE STARTED UP SHATT-AL-ARAB RIVER ENROUTE ABADAN FOR OFFICIAL VISIT. UPON ENTERING SHATT SHIP HOISTED IRAQI FLAG BUT DID NOT TAKE ON IRAQI PILOT. ALL THIS CONFUSED IRAQI AUTHORITIES WHO CALLED PORT OF KHORRAMSHAHR TO ASK WHAT WAS GOING ON. PORT THEN CALLED KHORRAMSHAHR NAVAL BASE COMMANDER JAMSHID ATTAIE WHO DISPATCHED PATROL BOAT AND IRANIAN NAVAL OFFICER TO BOARD FRENCH SHIP.

2. ACCORDING TO ATTAIE, IRANIAN NAVAL OFFICER BOARDED SHIP AND PRESENTED FRENCH CAPTAIN DELAUNAY WITH THREE CHOICES:

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1) REPLACE IRAQI FLAG WITH IRANIAN FLAG AND TAKE ON IRANIAN

PILOT, 2) TURN AROUND AND GO BACK, 3) GO TO BASRA. CAPTAIN WAS ADVISED THAT IRANIANS UNDER NO CONDITIONS WOULD ALLOW SHIP TO PROCEED ABADAN CARRYING AN IRAQI FLAG. FRENCH CAPTAIN TOOK FIRST ALTERNATIVE AND UPON ARRIVAL ABADAN PROFUSELY APOLOGIZED TO ATTAIE FOR INCIDENT.

3. LATER WHEN DESCRIBING INCIDENT TO CONOFFS ATTAIE SEEMED TRIUMPHANT AND DELCARED THIS WAS FIRST TIME FOREIGN WARSHIP HAD COME UP SHATT UNDER IRANIAN PILOTAGE FLYING IRANIAN FLAG. ATTAIE, WHILE CRITICAL OF FRENCH FOR LACK OF AWARENESS IRANIAN SENSITIVITIES, VIEWS INCIDENT AS MISUNDERSTANDING, PERHAPS RESULT OF POOR COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FRENCH EMBASSY AND SHIP. ATTAIE ALSO SAID HE WOULD BE REPORTING INCIDENT TO SHAH.

4. COMMENT: SOURCE FOR ABOVE WAS CAPTAIN ATTAIE WHO OBVIOUSLY SEES INCIDENT AS FEATHER IN HIS CAP. WE WILL TRY TO OBTAIN FRENCH VERSION OF EVENT. ATTAIE'S STATEMENT THAT THIS IS FIRST TIME FOREIGN WARSHIP HAS COME UP SHATT UNDER IRANIAN PILOTAGE AND IRANIAN FLAG IS PROBABLY CORRECT. CONSULATE HAS NO INFORMATION TO CONTRARY.
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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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